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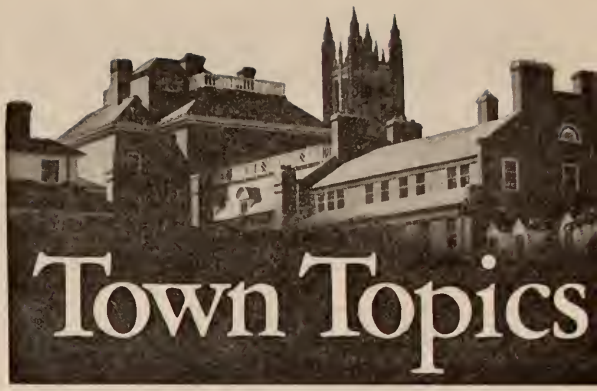

Town Topics

WE NOMINATE

Alfred Hoyt Bill, distinguished son of Eli Yale, who 16 years ago came to Princeton for a two-months visit and remained to become one of New Jersey's most skilled practitioners of the art of writing. A native of Rochester, N. Y., a former resident of Minnesota and Massachusetts and in earlier years a frequent traveler in Europe, Bill since World War II has been making a life-long interest—the study of military history—pay dividends in the form of highly significant, and yet completely readable, historical works.

Now in the midst of his fifth book in four years, this self-trained historian has earned a place in the front rank of recognized military analysts. In 1946 his "Beleaguered City" (Richmond, 1861-1865) was enthusiastically endorsed by critics and historians. The following fall "Rehearsal for Conflict" (The War with Mexico) was a national book club selection, while in 1948 "The Campaign of Princeton, 1776-1777" was hailed by one reviewer for "creating a feeling of suspense," a rare tribute for a meticulously-documented chronicle of nine brief days.

Bill's gift for making history live, without burdening the general reader with slews of foot-notes and other indices of his eminently sound scholarship, was carefully polished down through the years. In the early 1920's, some two decades after his graduation from Yale, he started writing on a full-time basis and his initial book-length efforts were historical novels designed for the juvenile trade. He successfully invaded the fields of adult fiction and biography before swinging into his beautifully-paced publications of the post-war era.

The son of an Episcopal clergyman, Bill first probed deep into military affairs in the company of friends in Faribault, Minn., where he taught and later served as treasurer of three Episcopal-sustained schools. Bill and his "allies," meeting Saturday evenings for a period of years, started with the Napoleonic Wars and proceeded to investigate every conceivable aspect of the science of waging and winning wars. His own military experience included duty on the Mexican Border as a regimental adjutant and service in France as a divisional Red Cross representative with the first A.E.F.

For interpreting the past in the easily understandable terms of the present; for lifting the veil of obscurity from some of the most splendid episodes in American history; for furthering Princeton's distinctive literary tradition; he is TOWN TOPICS' nominee for

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July 24 - 30, 1949

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Town Topics

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Editors and Publishers

Mailed without charge every week to every home in Princeton Borough and Township

Advertising Rates on Application
Box 371 Princeton, N. J. Telephone 2326

Vol. IV. No. 20 July 24-30, 1949

Topics of the Town

July Journal. As recently as two decades ago, Princeton went so sound asleep in Summer-time that the only sound to be heard was the gentle breathing of the slumbering community. This week, the thousands of Princetonians who hadn't yet gotten away on a vacation knew from the variety of news that their town was active the year 'round:

Seething tempers in the McCarter Theatre (see page 5) brought the participants and Princeton a lot of cheap publicity. Day after the first story broke, screen actress Susan Peters reported to police that $5,000 worth of jewelry and personal effects had been taken from her car parked outside the Wagon Wheel Inn on Route 31.

The Township Committee gave verbal approval of plans submitted by Theodore Potts for a large shopping center east of Ewing Street. An ordinance rezoning the area was being readied, with a public hearing set for September 12.

The township also broke ground for its $542,000 school project on Valley Road. Committee chairman

—Continued on Page 3

CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE PRINCETON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Applegate Floral Shop, Alice Elizabeth Shop, Harry Ballot, The Balt, Bamman's, G. S. Barclay, Bert-Ann, Black Lantern, Bovino's, L. C. Bowers & Sons, Caruso's, Children's Shop, Clayton's, Clearose, The Clothes Line, W. L. Coan, Colonial Bakery, Edmund D. Cook, Cox's, Cummins Shop, Claridge Wine & Liquor, Douglas MacDaid, Educational Testing Service, The Exchange, Flower Basket, Frazee's, Bruce H. French, Gale Cleaners, Gerber Chevrolet, Louis Gerber, Mary Gill, Elise Goupil, Griggs Restaurant, Grover & Gulick, Hinkson's, W. B. Howe, Inc., Hulit's, Harper Method, Heereman's, Ideal Beauty Salon, Joan's Dress Shop, Benjamin Kahn, Dr. Nathan Kasrel.

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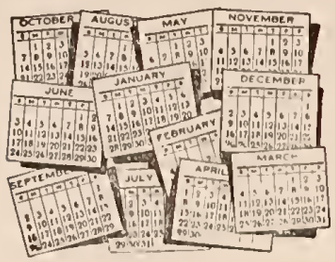

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39 Palmer Square — Tel. 395

TOPICS OF THE TOWN

—Continued from Page 2

B. Franklin Bunn and Myron E. LaVake, board of education president, spoke briefly.

Police Chief Martin Clausen, aided by Borough Chief Edward W. Mahan, worked over a period of months to solve a string of nine robberies in Princeton and along U. S. Route 1. Charged with them last weekend was Ray D. Kell Jr., 19, of the Somerville Road, whose mother and younger sister died together by gas 15 months ago.

The cost of living held the line, failing to move in either direction. Food and rent were up but clothing, fuel and numerous types of household goods were down. In general, costs were 4.4 percent lower than last August's all-time peak.

The humidity was remorseless but the drought now lived only in the record books. In three hours last Sunday, three inches of rain fell, 15 times the amount for the entire month of June.

The Princeton Business Association listed 106 charter members (with TOWN TOPICS the only Prince-

—Continued on Page 6

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Colored Marshmallows—8 oz. 19c

SALE ON SCOTT PAPER PRODUCTS
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Scott Tissue—11c roll; $1.30 per doz.
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Sports in Short

All-Star Tiger. Princeton's lone representative on the All-Star College football team which will meet the New York Giants at the Polo Grounds next September will be one of its best. Fullback John Weber, looking forward to a career with the New York Yankees, will fit into the collegian's backfield. In gaining 503 yards and averaging 5 per carry last season, the husky ball toter became the only regular back in Tiger grid history never to lose a yard.

Trophies at Brophy's. Three softball leagues (see page 8 for schedules) are staging torrid races for community championships, with playoffs set to begin early in August. Latest standings released by "Y" Secretary Frank Clark show the Forty-Niners heading the "A" League with a 7-1 record, followed by the defending champion Phantoms with 6-2. Annex Grill, the Royals and Hawks follow.

National Guard and AVC are tied for first spot in the "B" League, each with a sizzling 8-1 mark. The Eagles, Post Office and ETS are locked in a three-way knot for third place at 5-4. College Board, the Commuters and Film Center trail.

The "C" League shows the Odd Fellows, with a 10 and 0 count, to be the only undefeated team. Jugtown and Opinion Research are tied for second at 6-3, pending the outcome of a disputed game. RCA and Heyden are below them. Trophies for the winning and most sportsmanlike teams will be on display at Brophy's next Tuesday.

Princeton's Twin-M entry suffered its first shutout of the season Tuesday night when Pennington made an unearned run scored in the first inning stand up for a 1-0 victory. Monday evening saw Andy Drummond hurl an 8-1 triumph over Hopewell, limiting the losers to two blows. Plainsboro was smothered, 17-3, last Thursday, Roy Swingler's two home runs pacing the heavy attack. The Tigertown nine still leads the circuit.

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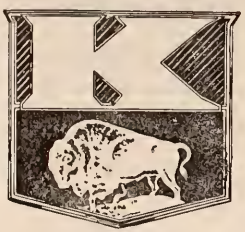

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News of the Theatres

One Hit, One Run: One Misplay. Princeton's Drama Festival and Harold J. Kennedy, its director, were the crux of a heated but—to metropolitan newspapers—generally amusing argument this week and the press front-paged the fracas for all it was worth. Although charges and counter-charges were still flying fast, it was apparent that Joan Blondell had complained about the supporting cast's lack of ability; that Mr. Kennedy felt her language was "vicious, profane and brutally insulting;" that just before the show a week ago Wednesday Michael Todd, Miss Blondell's husband, had laid rough hands on Mr. Kennedy (the latter claimed he was choked and his head banged against the wall); that Mr. Kennedy had 'phoned for a police bodyguard; and that the play, ironically titled "Happy Birthday," was a box office flop.

Opinion on developments immediately after the fight differs. Mr. Kennedy's version, issued through his lawyer, Hugh D. Wise: "I left the melee and went to the box office to call the police. Todd followed me and stood in the lobby stamping and screaming vile, obscene and abusive language in the presence of the arriving audience. The police arrived promptly and, after some altercation, ejected Todd from the theatre."

Mr. Todd's version: "He (Kennedy) screamed and flew—and I use that word advisedly—into the box office and locked himself in. I wouldn't hit a bird like that."

Mr. Kennedy threatened civil and criminal action against Mr. Todd, promised he would seek through Actors' Equity to have Miss Blondell barred from the stage. Mr. Todd welcomed all challenges, commenting: "It was the most ridiculous thing I ever saw. We're embarrassed we were mixed up in that damn amateur night down there."

—Continued on Page 7

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TOPICS OF THE TOWN

—Continued from Page 3

ton publication.) A highlight of the Summer season was set for Saturday, August 13, when Mercer Engine Company No. 3 will hold its annual outing at the Squatters' Club.

At Princeton Hospital, daughters were born to Mr. & Mrs. Richard G. Woodbridge, 19 So. Stanworth; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Huntington, 88 Olden Lane; Mr. & Mrs. James Hoffman, RD 3; Mr. & Mrs. Valentine Ranallo, 171 John; Mr. & Mrs. William W. Clarke Jr., 217-C Halsey; Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Watlington, RD 3; sons to Mr. & Mrs. George McGowan, 258 John; Mr. & Mrs. Morris Cahn, 124 Jefferson.

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'THE GREAT SINNER'
Gregory Peck - Ava Gardner
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'LOST BOUNDARIES'
Beatrice Pearson - Mel Ferrer

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William Powell, Shelley Winters
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Peaches ..... 2 lbs. 25c
Yellow Squash 2 lbs. 19c
Fresh Limes (large) ..... 45c doz.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

NEWS OF THE THEATRES

—Continued from Page 5

MURRAY THEATRE

The Streets of New York, an old-fashioned melodrama played in the style our grandfathers loved, is worth a visit any night through Saturday. Opening Tuesday: the able Karl Light in W. B. Yeats' translation of the classic Sophocles tragedy, **Oedipus Rex**. Pat Echeverria and Ruth Homrighausen of Princeton, Robert McHugh and Thomas Buell head a good supporting cast.

McCARTER THEATRE

The Barretts of Wimpole Street with Susan Peters is the current offering. Next week, the perennial Edward Everett Horton in **Present Laughter**, a comedy about an egocentric actor running slowly away from predatory women.

THE PLAYHOUSE

The Great Gatsby (Thurs.-Sat.) casts Alan Ladd as a self-made man (via bootlegging) whose greed for money causes him two-fold woe when he realizes he should not have forsaken his first sweetheart. A weak period piece about the frivolous '20's.

The Great Sinner (Sun.-Wed.), based on a Dostoevsky novel, casts Gregory Peck as a young Russian addicted to gambling and to the beautiful daughter (Ava Gardner) of a corrupt general whose debts have virtually mortgaged her to the casino-owner. In a lavish, dramatic, occasionally heavy costume piece, their romance unfolds.

Lost Boundaries (Thurs. - Sat.) records in documentary style the story of a light-skinned Negro family, unable to work among their own race, who try to pass as whites. A difficult theme is given powerful

—Continued on Page 8

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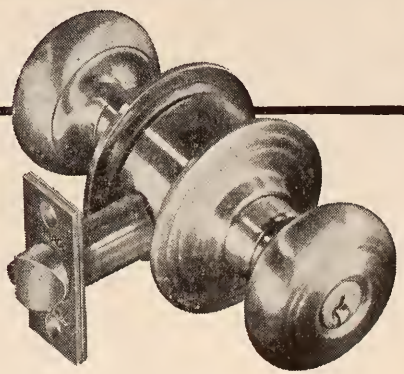

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Calendar of the Week

Sunday, July 24th

7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m.: Mass, St. Paul's R. C. Church.

10:30 a.m.: "A Success Who Proved to be a Failure," Rev. Mr. Milton J. Nauss; Lutheran Service; Westminster Choir College Chapel.

11:00 a.m.: "The Story of a Hater," Rev. Mr. Lynn H. Corson; Methodist Church.
Sermon, Rev. Dr. John V. Butler; Trinity Episcopal Church.
"Lest Happily We Drift," Rev. Dr. William L. Tucker; Union Service of First and Second Presbyterian Churches; Second Church.
"Walk in the Spirit," Rev. Mr. Roland F. Chandler; Princeton Baptist Church at Penns Neck.
"Faith or Form," Rev. Mr. John W. Johnson; Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church.
"Truth," Lesson-Sermon; First Church of Christ, Scientist.
"A Living Hope," Rev. Dr. William T. Parker; First Baptist Church.
Sermon, Rev. Mr. Benjamin J. Anderson; Witherspoon Presbyterian Church.
Friends Meeting for Worship; Stony Brook Meeting House.

8:00 p.m.: "The Secret of Christian Service," Rev. Dr. J. Christy Wilson, Jr.; First Church.
Service, Gospel Chorus in charge; Mt. Pisgah Church.
"Good Gifts," the Rev. Dr. Parker; First Baptist Church.

Monday, July 25th

6:15 p.m.: Twin-M League Baseball; Princeton vs. Blawenburg; Brokaw Field.
Y.M.C.A. "B" League Softball: Post Office vs. E.T.S., William & Olden Field; Eagles vs. Film Center, Goldie Field North; National Guard vs. A.V.C., Country Day School Field; College Board vs. Commuters, Y.M.C.A. Field.

Tuesday, July 26th

6:15 p.m.: Y.M.C.A. "A" League Softball: Hawks vs. Forty-Niners, Goldie Field North; Royals vs. Phantoms, Goldie Field South.

Wednesday, July 27th

6:15 p.m.: Y.M.C.A. "C" League Softball: Jugtown vs. Odd Fellows, Y.M.C.A. Field; Heyden Chemical vs. Opinion Research, Goldie Field, North.
8:15 p.m.: Mid-Week Meeting; First Church of Christ, Scientist.
8:30 p.m.: Mid-Week Services; First Baptist and Mt. Pisgah Churches.

Thursday, July 28th

6:15 p.m.: Y.M.C.A. "A" League Softball: Annex Grill vs. Forty-Niners, William & Olden Field; Royals vs. Hawks, Country Day School Field.
9:00-11:00 p.m.: Block Dance, sponsored by Summer Playground Committee; High School Oval.

Friday, July 29th

Deadline for filing entries in Women's Community Singles Tennis Championships at Y.M.C.A., 120 John St., Tel. 3630.

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NEWS OF THE THEATRES

—Continued from Page 7

but sympathetic understanding through a combination of a splendid script and fine acting.

THE GARDEN

The Younger Brothers (Fri.-Sat.) tells of three paroled convicts who seek to go straight and a crooked detective who tries to frame them. Wayne Morris in a fast if routine western. Children's show Sat., 10:30 a.m., "The Spirit of West Point," a good football film.

Take One False Step (Mon.-Tues.) casts William Powell as an educator turned sleuth when he becomes involved in a murder. Humor and suspense are both a bit thin.

Volpone (Wed.-Thurs.) is a modern, generally amusing version of the 17th century comedy of stolen love. In French with English titles.

LOST—Sunday, July 17, Boxer, year-old male, fawn, black mask, white markings. Please 'phone any information to 2576-M.

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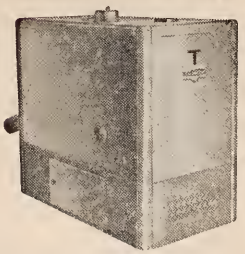

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